

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 12134

USIAC

E.O. 11652: NA

SUBJ: THAI CULTURAL CENSORSHIP BOARD

REF: BANGKOK 11545-C

1. DURING LUNCHEON WITH MFA INFORMATION DIRECTOR-GENERAL PRACHA GUNA-KASEM TO DISCUSS THAI PARTICIPATION IN U.S. BICENTENNIAL, USIS OFFICERS RAISED QUESTION OF ESTABLISHMENT CENSORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTED REFTEL.
 2. PRACHA CLAIMED THE NATION ARTICLE DISTORTED PURPOSE OF THE PANEL WHICH, HE SAID, WAS BEING SET UP TO REVIEW VARIOUS CULTURAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS THAILAND HAS WITH OTHER NATIONS AND TO STUDY DRAFTS OF SUCH AGREEMENTS PROPOSED BY "SEVERAL SOCIALIST COUNTRIES." COMMITTEE, HE SAID, DID NOT HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR QUOTE CENSORSHIP UNQUOTE.
 3. DISCUSSING SOVIET'S PROPOSED CULTURAL ACCORD, PRACHA SAID IT WAS AN "UMBRELLA" TYPE PROPOSAL UNDER WHICH STUDENT AND OTHER TYPE OF EXCHANGES COULD OCCUR, RATHER THAN A SPECIFIC AGREEMENT AS TO THE NUMBERS AND TYPES OF SUCH EXCHANGES. SUCH SPECIFICS WOULD BE TAKEN UP BY THE MFA ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.
- MCGINLEY

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